Volume 3, Issue3, March 2010

THE iNFORMER DDK FELLOWS NEWSLETTER

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF DIABETES AND DIGESTIVE AND KIDNEY DISEASES

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

The Fellows Advisory Board (FAB) in collaboration with the NIDDK Fellowship Office has started a monthly newsletter to announce events and news. If you would like to help write articles for the newsletter or have any questions or comments regarding the newsletter or FAB, please contact:

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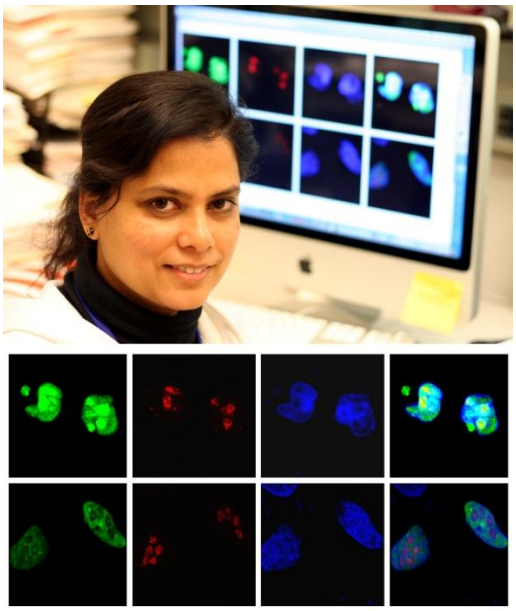
A Closer Look – Leelamma Jacob by Nicholas Noinaj

Leelamma Jacob (Leela) is a research fellow working under Dr. William Simonds in the Endocrine Signaling & Oncogenesis section of the Metabolic Disease Branch of NIDDK. She has been at NIH for over six years now, working as a postdoctoral fellow for her first five. She is currently involved in two major projects with the first within the field of neuroscience. Here, she investigates the signal transduction pathways in the brain with specific focus on the neuroprotective properties and function of G protein β5 and its complex partners RGS7 and R7BP. This complex shuttles between the cell membrane and nucleus, yet its function in the nucleus is unknown. However, Leela's investigations have confirmed molecular interactions that may lead to the transcriptional regulation of superoxide dismutase (SOD1), an antioxidant enzyme in neuronal cell lines. This work provides an understanding of neuroprotective signaling by the Gβ5/RGS7 complex that has accelerated insights into potential therapeutic targets against neurological and neurodegenerative diseases.



Leelamma Jacob is a recipient of one of the 2009 NIDDK Special Achievement Awards named '*You Make a Difference Award*'. Shown also is a confocal image of Hela cells expressing GFP-parafibromin (pfb), specifically showing the nucleolar expression link to the tumor suppressor property of pfb WT (upper panel) and pfb L95P mut (lowerpanel) not going into the nucleolus.

Her other project is in the field of cancer research where she studies the physiologic targets of parafibromin, a tumor suppressor protein.

A Call for Writers by Lystranne Maynard

Dear Fellows,

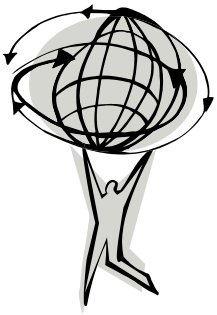
The Informer is hoping to add a few more feature columns to the newsletter, and we hope to recruit some writing volunteers to our team. We hope to keep the newsletter current, informative and fun with the addition of these new articles:

1. *A Closer Look* – Nominate an exceptional fellow or PI. Learn about the research being done right here at NIDDK. Our first *A Closer Look* debuts in this March issue. Hope you enjoy it.

2. *Reading Nook* – Read any good books lately, fiction or non-fiction that you want to share with other fellows? Come across any interesting journals or newspaper articles? Look out for the first *Reading Nook* article on page 4 of this issue.

3. *Tech corner* – Do you know of any website or internet tool that can be useful to other fellows? Write up a description and submit it to us!

A Closer Look – Leela Jacob, continued from page 1



Loss of function of parafibromin can lead to neoplastic transformation in hyperparathyroidism-jaw tumor syndrome (HPT-JT) and sporadic parathyroid cancer. Leela has completed a basic science investigation of a mutant form of parafibromin which was discovered in multiple members of a family with HPT-JT, which is the first time a direct connection has been demonstrated for a clinically-important parafibromin missense mutation that leads to neoplastic growth. She has also shown the localization of parafibromin to the nucleolus and the anti-proliferative and growth-suppressive actions of parafibromin, sparking great interest in her laboratory to further explore the connection between nucleolar localization and the tumor suppressor function of parafibromin.

Leela is originally from a rural village in Kerala state nicknamed 'God's own country', which is just off the southern peninsula of India. She earned her PhD from the Indian Institute of Chemical Biology, Kolkata, India and aspires to one day continue her work as an independent investigator with her own lab. Leela tends to start her work days early and ends them late, driven by her own advice to other DDK fellows, that 'pursuing a research career in biological science needs immense hard work, endurance and thorough preparation.' She feels her greatest accomplishments are her studies with the Gβ5 complex and with parafibromin and is deeply grateful for the opportunities that being a part of the NIH scientific community has afforded her.

When she isn't in the lab, Leela enjoys gardening, sewing and reading books and enjoys dedicating time to her church where she is a Sunday school teacher. She has a passion for helping people, especially the elderly, which also gives her a sense that she is doing something good and meaningful. In addition to work at NIH and church activities, Leela somehow finds time to dedicate to family.

While in the US, Leela has had to overcome many obstacles in her work including difficulty in getting her work published, but the largest and most frustrating obstacle has been in maintaining her visa status to study in the US, which has caused much grief in her own personal life. However, despite her obstacles, Leela remains strong-willed, independent and dedicated to her personal mission to do good in the world and to try to make it a better place for all and she understands the work involved, 'from my experience, I believe that we can achieve great thing in life by persistent hard work.' Recently, the fruit of Leela's hard work is finally starting to pay off as many of her manuscripts are now being accepted for publication, which is likely to motivate even more an already very motivated person.

The DDK Informer is continually accepting nominations for the 'A Closer Look' column and can include either an NIDDK fellow, staff scientist or your mentor. Please send all nominations to Nick at noinajn@niddk.nih.gov.

A Call for Writers, continued from page 1

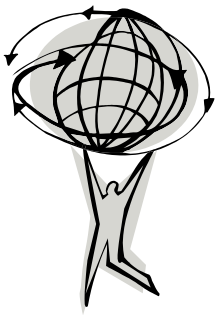
4. *Laboratory Confessions* – Know of a funny or interesting incident that happened in the lab or is science-related? Share it with the rest of the fellows. It can be a few lines or a few paragraphs, rest assured we will take it!

If you are interested in writing one of these new features or would like to suggest new ideas, please don't hesitate to contact the Informer staff.

Your Editor-in-Chief
Lystranne Maynard
maynardl@mail.nih.gov

WALS Series 2009-2010

Please mark your calendars for WALS Lectures on March 31, 2010 and another one on April 7, 2010 that will be hosted by NIDDK. Several of our Fellows will be able to have lunch with the speakers. Please email kvish@niddk.nih.gov, if fellows are interested in escorting or having lunch with the speaker. The speaker on March 31, 2010 will be Dr. David Altshuler, M.D., Ph.D., the professor of genetics and medicine at Harvard Medical School. He is one of the world's leading scientists in the study of human genetic variation and its application to disease, using tools and information from the Human Genome Project. Also, he is a founding member of the Broad Institute and serves as a director of the Broad's program in Medical and Population Genetics. The title of the talk will be " Genomic Variation and the Inherited Basis of Common Disease." Dr. Judy Cho, the Associate professor of Medicine and Genetics from Yale School of Medicine will be speaking on April 7, 2010.



Extramural Review Branch Internships for NIDDK Fellows

Training in Scientific Review and Research Analysis,
Opportunities for Research & Resume Enhancement;
Develop Marketable Skills;
Expand your Networking Contacts and Program Management.

Applicants should contact: **Dr. Louis Simchowitz, Director of the Fellowship Office for more information**

FARE Awards 2011

The Fellows Award for Research Excellence (FARE) 2011 competition is now open! NIH trainees have the opportunity to win a $1000 travel award to present their work. The annual FARE competition recognizes outstanding intramural scientific research by Postdoctoral and Clinical Fellows, as well as doctoral candidates at the NIH. The competition awards the top 25% of entries a $1000 travel award to be used to attend and present their work at a scientific meeting. To enter, eligible fellows should submit an abstract describing their current research. Entries will be judged based on scientific merit, originality, experimental design, and overall quality. Abstracts will be accepted until March 23, 2010; earlier submission increases the chances of being assigned your first choice of study sections. Winners will be announced Aug. 15, 2010. Please visit http://felcom.od.nih.gov/subCommittee/fare.aspx for more details or to enter.

Upcoming Social Events:

Saturday March 6th: DCist Exposed Photography Show, opening reception

Wednesday March 31st: FelCom happy Hour at BlackFinn

For more information about social events contact Aurora Fontainhas:

fontainhasa@niddk.nih.gov

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Bethesda, MD 20892

NIDDK Office of Fellow Recruitment and Career Development office

Bldg 12A, Rm. 3011.
301-451-3640 (voice)
301-402-7461 (fax)
fellowships@intra.niddk.nih.gov
(e-mail)
fellowshipoffice.niddk.nih.gov

Staff Members:
Louis Simchowitz, M.D., M.B.A.
Director

Kala Viswanathan
Program Specialist

Lorraine Moore
Program Assistant

We're on the Web!

NIDDK Fellowship Office:

http://fellowshipoffice.niddk.nih.gov

NIDDK Informer Newsletter:

http://fellowshipoffice.niddk.nih.gov/newsletter

Reading Nook by Lystranne Maynard

The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks Rebecca Skloot

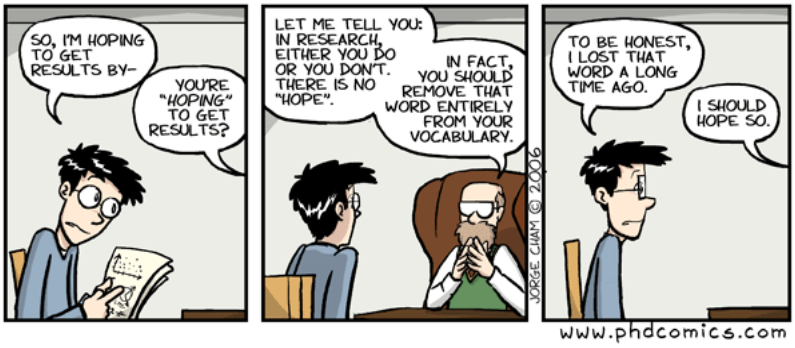
HeLa cells can be found in the freezers and incubators of a majority of the biological laboratories worldwide, but have we ever given any thought to the origins of this cell line? Did you ever wonder what HeLa stands for? Were the cells donated for the advancement of science? Do we know the name of the person whose cells have been used to develop many of the major scientific discoveries in recent history? *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot answers these questions and a lot more. A labor of love of more than 10 years in the making, the book weaves a story of African-American culture, religion, poverty, bioethics, intellectual property of tissue, and science communication.

HeLa cells were cultured from the cervical cancer of Henrietta Lacks, a mother of five who was treated and died at Johns Hopkins in 1951. Henrietta's cancer was a particularly aggressive type, and though she died eight months after her diagnosis, her cells became the first human immortal cell line ever developed. HeLa cells have been central to many scientific breakthroughs such as the development of the polio vaccine, and drugs to treat many diseases such as influenza and Parkinson's. While HeLa cells have led to important scientific and medical advances, Henrietta Lacks lies in an unmarked grave in Clover, Virginia, and her family lives with no health insurance. They only learnt about the "immortality" of Henrietta's cells twenty years after her death, when scientists studying HeLa cells used her husband and children without informed consent.

Rebecca Skloot spent many years enmeshed with the Lacks family. She earned their trust and admiration, and in return has written a powerful narrative that spans tobacco farming in Southern Virginia to the development of the ATCC in Bethesda, MD. She writes on the history of bioethics of informed consent and tissue property rights and the struggle of the Lacks family to fully comprehend the "immortality" of their mother's cells. This book highlights the major advances made by science, but also many of the thorny issues of science versus bioethics.

This book can and should be read by scientists and non-scientists. Rebecca Skloot is an engaging writer whose narrative flows smoothly from science history to the Lacks' family drama. *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* has been praised by many and is currently #3 on the New York Times bestseller list. It's a great read and I definitely recommend it!

PhD Comics



The NIDDK Fellows Scientific Retreat is coming soon!
Come and enjoy this unique event on
March 24 - 26, 2010 at Hyatt Regency, Chesapeake Bay
http://fellowshipoffice.niddk.nih.gov/retreat/

Some information about the two keynote speakers:

THURSDAY MARCH 25 **11:15 AM – 12:30 PM**
Keynote Speaker: Gregory G. Germino, M.D., Deputy Director of NIDDK

"Right Here, Right Now! Scientific Opportunity in 2010"

FRIDAY MARCH 26 **11:15 AM – 12:30 PM**
Keynote Speaker: Paul Roepe, Ph.D., Chair of the Chemistry Department at Georgetown University

"Elucidating Antimalarial Drug Resistance: An Interdisciplinary Exercise in Genetics,Pharmacology, Cell Biology and Chemistry"

NIDDK Retreat Survival Guide

The 5th NIDDK Fellows Scientific Retreat is approaching and many of you are planning to attend it. For some of you, this is your first NIDDK retreat. With a pretty busy and diverse agenda, including oral presentations, poster sessions, and career development sessions, one can feel a bit overwhelmed. But you shouldn't be: this is a great event and we're going to give some useful tips so you can take the most advantage from it:

- Do you know that NIDDK has a poster printer that you can use, free of charge? All you need to do is to call to reserve a 30-min slot (301 496 5100) and then go and get the key located in building 10, room 9N208. The printer is actually located in the room 9C428. The instruction is on the wall of the printer room. The poster shouldn't exceed 48 in. high x 72 in. wide (but the ideal size is about 42 in. x 56 in.).
  With nearly 100 people presenting posters, the printer will be very busy on the days just before the retreat. So don't wait until the last minute to reserve your printing slot!

- In addition to the CV/resume workshop given by Lori Conlan, OITE agreed to bring more staffs to offer one-on-one CV/resume reviews. Don't miss this opportunity! The registration for the CV reviews will be sent out soon.

- In one of the career development sessions, we've invited former NIDDK fellows to come talk about their jobs in academia, industry and non-traditional career path. They are a great source of information for your future career. So bring on your networking skills!

- The agenda offers plenty of free time and social events: enjoy yourself! This is great opportunity to meet new people, make new friends and have fun! The hotel offers great amenities for you to enjoy during your free time: spa, indoor and outdoor pools, mini-golf course, tennis and sand volley ball courts, hiking and biking trail, and outdoor fireplace for smores party after dinner…
  Way to improve your interpersonal skills

We hope you will enjoy the retreat and we're all looking forward to see you there!

Here are some pictures to put you in the mood….

FELLOWS RETREAT - SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 24, 2010

9:30 AM - 11:30 AM **REGISTRATION AND CHECK-IN**

11:30 AM - 1:00 PM **WELCOME, OPENING REMARKS AND LUNCH | CHESAPEAKE A**
Louis Simchowitz, M.D., M.B.A.
Director, NIDDK Fellowship Office

1:00 PM - 3:00 PM **CONCURRENT ORAL PRESENTATIONS 1**

CELL BIOLOGY 1 | CHESAPEAKE B
William Heuett
Junghyo Jo
Nina Peel
Harish Nair Ramanathan
Marie Thearle

BIOCHEMISTRY | CHESAPEAKE C
Debdip Ghosh
Vassili Ivanov
Bereket Oquare
Alberto Plaza
Tiaojiang Xiao

GENETICS | CHESAPEAKE D
Salil Ghosh
Yu Ying Li
Michelle Mondoux
Erica Seigneur
David Sharlin

1:00 PM - 3:00 PM **ONE-ON-ONE CV REVIEW | CHESAPEAKE E, F, G**
OITE Staff

3:00 PM - 3:15 PM **BREAK | PREFUNCTION AREA**

3:15 PM - 4:00 PM **OVERVIEW OF FELCOM AND NIH OFFICE INTRAMURAL TRAINING AND EDUCATION | CHESAPEAKE A**
Lori Conlan, Ph.D.
Director, Postdoctoral Services, OITE
Shauna Clark, Ph.D.
NIDDK FelCom Basic Sciences Representative

4:00 PM - 6:00 PM **CONCURRENT CAREER DEVELOPMENT SESSION 1**
(One hour sessions repeat at 5:00 PM)

CV / RESUME WORKSHOP | CHESAPEAKE B
Lori Conlan, Ph.D.
Director, Office of Postdoctoral Services, OITE

INTERVIEWING SKILLS | CHESAPEAKE C
Shawn Mullen, Ph.D.
Deputy Director, Office of Postdoctoral Services, OITE

VISA AND IMMIGRATION ISSUES | CHESAPEAKE D
Vivian Weaver
Immigration Specialist, DIS/Visa & Immigration

4:00 PM - 6:00 PM **ONE-ON-ONE CV REVIEW | CHESAEPEAKE E, F, G**
OITE Staff

6:00 PM - 7:00 PM **DINNER | CHESAPEAKE A**

7:00 PM - 9:00 PM **POSTER SESSION 1 | CHESAPEAKE E, F, G**
(# P1 - P27)

9:00 PM - **SOCIAL/DANCING WITH DJ ROLLIN FRANKS | CHESAPEAKE A**

THURSDAY, MARCH 25, 2010

7:30 AM - 9:00 AM **BREAKFAST | CHESAPEAKE A**

9:00 AM - 11:00 AM **CONCURRENT ORAL PRESENTATIONS 2**

CELL BIOLOGY 2 | CHESAPEAKE B
Tamara James
Yan Wang
Daisuke Yamaji
Frances Yap
Humaira Gowher

STRUCTURAL BIOLOGY | CHESAPEAKE C
Naranbaatar Dashdorj
Sarosh Fatakia
Adedayo Fodeke
Shikha Gupta
Sayed Shazad-ul-Hussan

IMMUNOLOGY | CHESAPEAKE D
Anmar Khadra
Qisheng Li
Emmanuel Thomas
Athanassios Vassilopoulos
Naga Suresh Veerapu

11:00 AM - 11:15 AM **BREAK | PREFUNCTION AREA**

11:15 AM - 12:30 PM **KEYNOTE SPEAKER | CHESAPEAKE A**
Right Here, Right Now! Scientific Opportunity in 2010
Gregory G. Germino, M.D.
Deputy Director, NIDDK

12:30 PM - 1:30 PM **LUNCH | CHESAPEAKE A**

1:30 PM - 5:00 PM **FREE TIME**

5:00 PM - 6:30 PM **CAREER DEVELOPMENT 2 | CHESAPEAKE A**

Dominic Esposito, Ph.D.
Principal Scientist, NCI, SAIC Frederick

Johnalyn Lyles, Ph.D.
Technology Transfer
Technology Development Specialist, NIDDK

Amy Magra, Ph.D.
Health Science Policy Analyst, NIDDK

Nico Pannacciulli, M.D., Ph.D.
Bristol Myers Squibb
Medical Director, Metabolics

Erica Rosemond, Ph.D.
Program Manager, Grant Review, NIMH

Kareem Washington, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor
Department of Pediatrics and Child Health
Howard University

6:30 PM - 7:30 PM	**DINNER | CHESAPEAKE A**
7:30 PM - 9:30 PM	**POSTER SESSION 2 | CHESAPEAKE E, F, G (# P28 - P51)**
9:30 PM -	**WII PARTY / GAMES / MUSIC | CHESAPEAKE A**

FRIDAY, MARCH 26, 2010

7:30 AM - 9:00 AM	**BREAKFAST AND CHECK-OUT | CHESAPEAKE A**
9:00 AM - 11:00 AM	**POSTER SESSION 3 | CHESAPEAKE E, F, G (# P54 – P78)**
11:00 AM - 11:15 AM	**BREAK | PREFUNCTION AREA**
11:15 AM - 12:30 PM	**KEYNOTE SPEAKER | CHESAPEAKE A** ***Elucidating Antimalarial Drug Resistance: An Interdisciplinary Exercise in Genetics, Pharmacology, Cell Biology and Chemistry*** Paul D. Roepe, Ph.D. Chair, Department of Chemistry Georgetown University
12:30 PM - 2:00 PM	**LUNCH / CLOSING REMARKS / AWARDS CEREMONY | CHESAPEAKE A**

Poster Presentations

Location: **CHESAPEAKE E, F, G**

Poster Session 1 (Wednesday, 7 pm – 9 pm)
Poster Session 2 (Thursday, 7:30 pm – 9:30 pm)
Poster Session 3 (Friday, 9 am – 11 am)

Last Name	First Name	Poster Session	Poster #
Abe	Yoshifusa	Poster Session – 1	P1
Bagattin	Alessia	Poster Session – 2	P28
Boateng	Kingsley	Poster Session – 3	P54
Boura	Evzen	Poster Session – 1	P2
Boutin	Alisa	Poster Session – 2	P29
Burkart	Anna	Poster Session – 3	P55
Cao	Yanyan	Poster Session – 1	P3
Chappie	Joshua	Poster Session – 2	P30
Chen	Jia	Poster Session – 3	P56
Cheng	Lin-Ling	Poster Session – 1	P4
Chisholm	Cristine	Poster Session – 2	P31
Clark	Shauna	Poster Session – 3	P57
Clawson	Sara	Poster Session – 1	P5
Clough	Emily	Poster Session – 2	P32
Dai	Jieqiong	Poster Session – 3	P58
Deflorian	Francesca	Poster Session – 1	P6
Dogo	Cajetan	Poster Session – 2	P33
Dubaz	Ornella	Poster Session – 3	P59
Eccleston	Jason	Poster Session – 1	P7
Fernandez	Cristina	Poster Session – 2	P34
Feuermann	Yontan	Poster Session – 3	P60
Gregory	Mark	Poster Session – 1	P8
Jacob	Leelamma	Poster Session – 3	P61
Jin	Qihuang	Poster Session – 1	P9
Joo	Jungsoo	Poster Session – 2	P36
Jumpertz	Reiner	Poster Session – 3	P62
Kablan	Ahmed	Poster Session – 1	P10
Keembiyehetty	Chithra	Poster Session – 2	P37
Keffer	Jessica	Poster Session – 3	P63
Kersey	Rossio	Poster Session – 1	P11
Klein	Steve	Poster Session – 2	P38
Klover	Peter	Poster Session – 3	P64
Kretz	Cosima	Poster Session – 1	P12
Krishnamurthy	Siddharth	Poster Session – 2	P39
Lan	Keng-Hsin	Poster Session – 1	P13
Lapkouski	Mikalai	Poster Session – 2	P40
Lazo Fernandez	Yoskaly	Poster Session – 3	P66

Li	Lingli	Poster Session – 1	P14
Liu	Yanfen	Poster Session – 2	P41
Lu	Junxia	Poster Session – 3	P67
Luzon	Javier	Poster Session – 1	P15
Manfredi	Candela	Poster Session – 2	P42
Maynard	Lystranne	Poster Session – 3	P68
McMains	Vanessa	Poster Session – 1	P16
McMillin	Sara	Poster Session – 2	P43
Modi	Apurva	Poster Session – 3	P69
Namuswe	Frances	Poster Session – 1	P17
Noinaj	Nicholas	Poster Session – 2	P44
Ozel	Taner	Poster Session – 3	P70
Pandey	Mritunjay	Poster Session – 1	P18
Panel	Valentine	Poster Session – 2	P45
Park	Jun Hong	Poster Session – 3	P71
Pooput	Chaya	Poster Session – 1	P19
Pope	Arthur	Poster Session – 2	P35
Price	Jeffrey	Poster Session – 2	P46
Riedlinger	Greg	Poster Session – 3	P72
Savage	Kathleen	Poster Session – 1	P20
Sekine	Osamu	Poster Session – 2	P47
Sharma	Divya	Poster Session – 3	P73
Shrestha	Manisha	Poster Session – 1	P21
Silverman	Janice	Poster Session – 2	P48
Thirunarayanan	Nanthakumar	Poster Session – 1	P22
Thompson	Brandi	Poster Session – 3	P74
Tu	Hongbin	Poster Session – 2	P49
Wang	Lifeng	Poster Session – 1	P23
Wang	Peng	Poster Session – 3	P75
Wang	Qian	Poster Session – 3	P76
Whye	Nathan	Poster Session – 1	P24
Wollert	Thomas	Poster Session – 2	P50
Yan	Ming	Poster Session – 3	P77
Yao	Hongje	Poster Session – 1	P25
Yu	Ningpu	Poster Session – 1	P26
Yu	Chaohui	Poster Session – 3	P78
Zhao	Zhong	Poster Session – 2	P51
Zhu	Bingmei	Poster Session – 1	P27